

The Shropshire Football Association



Established in 1877
President *J.S. Constable*
Chairman *S.E. Farmer, J.P.*



SHROPSHIRE SENIOR CUP FINAL SHREWSBURY TOWN F. C.

V

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY XI

ON

MONDAY 3RD AUGUST 1998

AT

GAY MEADOW SHREWSBURY KICK OFF 7.30.PM.

Match Referee: *J H Holbrook*

Assistant Referee: *N W Pryce*

Assistant Referee: *A R Norgrove*

Fourth Official: *F Marsh*

S. F. A. Members in charge: *K J Ford, H R Jones and D W Ralphs.*

Trophy to be presented by S. F. A. President *J S Constable.*

SHREWSBURY TOWN F. C.

From:

Paul Edwards	Paul Evans
Nathan Blamey	Roger Preece
Brian Gayle	Kevin Jobling
Gareth Hanmer	Michael Brown
Graig Herbert	Anthony Briscoe
Martyn Naylor	Steve Jagielka
Kevin Seabury	Steve Kerrigan
Andrew Tretton	Craig Pountney
Peter Wilding	Lee Steele
Austin Berkley	Mark Williams
Dean Craven	Devon White

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY X1 F. C.

Matt Clarke
Earl Barrett
Manuel Agogo
Steve Nicol
Kevin Nicholson
Graham Hyde
Jim Magilton
Scott Oakes
Guy Whittingham
Krystof Kotylo
Chris King

Subs to be announced

Manager: Jake King

Assistant Manager: Peter Shreeves

Colours:	Shirts:	Blue
	Shorts:	White
	Socks:	Blue

Colours:	Shirts:	Yellow
	Shorts:	Yellow
	Socks:	Yellow

Tonight Sheffield Wednesday could become the first club from outside the County to win the Shropshire Senior Cup - being the first 'outsiders' ever to play in the 120 year-old competition. History however, would suggest otherwise. On nine previous visits to Gay Meadow, The Owls have won only once, with Shrewsbury winning three of the meetings, and the other five matches ending in a draw. Eight of the matches took place between 1975 and 1984 as Town and Sheffield Wednesday faced each other in both the old second and third divisions. During this time the two sides produced some highly entertaining games. But it is Wednesday's first-ever visit to Gay Meadow that holds the most fascination - and a place in the record books.

On November 26th 1962 Shrewsbury Town were drawn at home to first division Sheffield Wednesday in round three of the F. A. Cup, a fixture scheduled to take place on Saturday 6th January. Four weeks later, however, on Boxing Day, snow began to fall heavily in Shrewsbury, as it did throughout the country and soon Britain was gripped by one of the worst winters this century.

By Friday 5th January the day before the game was due to take place, the county town of Shropshire had a six foot covering of snow and a mid morning pitch inspection carried out by Wolverhampton referee Jack Taylor, who 11 years later would be in the middle for the 1974 West Germany v Holland World Cup Final, performed the formality of calling the match off.

The game was optimistically re-arranged for Tuesday 9th January, but was never really likely to go ahead on that date - nor on the next ten times it was proposed. On the sixth time the game was postponed (February 4th) by way of irony the Granada Cinema in Shrewsbury was showing the latest Cliff Richard hit film 'Summer Holiday' and although the snow was beginning to melt, the problem now was flooding and things reached the stage where it was mutually decided by the clubs to be 'pointless' to fix a definite date. Yet after being called off a dozen times, still the record for the number of times one game has been postponed, it was finally played at the 13th time of asking. And you've guessed it - when first division high-fliers Sheffield Wednesday came to Gay Meadow on Thursday 21st February 1963, third division Shrewsbury Town held them to a 1-1 draw - necessitating a replay.

In that Gay Meadow encounter, Shrewsbury's first competitive match for 57 days, 'Bronco' Layne headed the visitors into a 19th minute lead, a goal still hotly disputed by Shrewsbury supporters who to this day claim his looping header went through the roof of the net and not under the bar. Albert Harley netted for Town in the opening minute of the second half and despite chances at either end the game ended all square.

The replay took place at Hillsborough a fortnight later. An Arthur Rowley thunderbolt beat England goalkeeper Ron Springett all ends up to put Shrewsbury ahead - but Wednesday hit back to level and then six minutes into extra-time, Jon Fantham struck decisively to secure a 2-1 win for Wednesday and a very belated fourth round meeting with Arsenal, then managed by Billy Wright. So the longest running cup saga in British Football came to an end. From the moment the draw was made to the final whistle at Hillsborough, exactly 100 days had passed.